

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 220125

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220125

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 220125 SENT DACCA INFO ISLAMABAD  
LONDON NEW DELHI DATED OCT 4.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220125

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG

SUBJECT:PM'S VISIT TO US

SUMMARY: BANGLADESH PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN'S  
VISIT HAS SERVED TO CONFIRM BANGLADESH/U.S. GOOD RELATIONS  
BUT BENGALLEES DID NOT FULLY UTILIZE IT FOR ITS PUBLIC  
RELATIONS VALUE. MUJIB APPEARS TO HAVE LEFT THE U.S.  
SATISFIED WITH HIS RECEPTION AND TREATMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. MUJIB'S OBJECTIVES. MUJIB'S ADDRESS TO THE UNGA, HIS  
MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FORD, SECRETARY KISSINGER,  
SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN, AND THE VIP TREATMENT ACCORDED  
HIM ALL SERVED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE U.S. RECOGNIZES  
BANGLADESH AS ONE OF THE POWERS OF THE SUBCONTINENT, WITH  
WHOM WE ENJOY GOOD RELATIONS. IN ADDITION, PRESIDENT  
FORD'S ASSURANCES OF CONCERN FOR BANGLADESH'S ECONOMIC  
PROBLEMS AND THE PROMISE OF PL-480 FOODGRAINS CONSTITUTED  
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PAGE 02 STATE 220125

TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

FROM MUJIB'S POINT OF VIEW, THIS VISIT HAS APPARENTLY FULFILLED ITS PURPOSE.

2. OUR OBJECTIVES. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW ALSO THE TRIP WENT WELL. THE MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER WERE CONDUCTED IN A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE AT SOME

LENGTH AND COVERED THE GROUND OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS (WHICH WE BOTH AGREED ARE EXCELLENT), THE GENERAL PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION IN THE SUBCONTINENT OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, AND BANGLADESH'S ECONOMIC SITUATION.

3. AN OPPORTUNITY LOST. AT THE SAME TIME, LITTLE PRESS AND PUBLIC ATTENTION WAS GENERATED BY MUJIB'S VISIT, REFLECTING THE REALITY OF SHORT MEMORIES AND BANGLADESH'S LOW NEWS PRIORITY. IN PART, HOWEVER, THE BENGALEE SIDE FAILED TO MAKE THE MOST OF ITS OPPORTUNITIES. MUJIB AND HIS PARTY FAILED TO DRAMATIZE PUBLICLY THE INTENSITY OF BANGLADESH'S CURRENT DIFFICULTIES. THEY WERE SELECTIVE IN THEIR TREATMENT OF THE PRESS: MUJIB GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WASHINGTON POST, BUT NOT TO OTHERS. MUJIB DID NOT MEET THE PRESS CORPS AFTER HIS MEETING WITH FORD, BUT LEFT IT TO KAMAL HOSSAIN. THE NEW YORK TIMES, NEWSWEEK AND TIME ALL HOSTED SOCIAL EVENTS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER IN NEW YORK, BUT LITTLE HAS APPEARED IN THE PRESS BEYOND TWO-LINERS AND A PHOTO OF MUJIB EMBRACING THE PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR, SAHABZADA YAQUB KHAN, WHICH PROVIDED THE SINGLE DRAMATIC MOMENT OF A BENGALEE-HOSTED WASHINGTON RECEPTION.

4. SPEECHES. MUJIB'S MAIN PUBLIC THEMES WERE BANGLADESH'S DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION, AS A RESULT OF NATURAL DISASTERS AND NEGLECT IN PAKISTAN TIMES, AND THE NEED FOR PAKISTAN TO MATCH BANGLADESH'S GENEROSITY IN REACHING ACCOMMODATION ON THE ISSUES REMAINING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HIS UN SPEECH REFERRED TO BANGLADESH'S "ULTIMATE CONTRIBUTION" IN GRANTING CLEMENCY TO THE 195 POW'S, AGAINST WHOM THERE WAS "OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE OF HAVING COMMITTED CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY." THESE WERE THE THEMES OF HIS PRIVATE PRESENTATIONS ALSO.

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PAGE 03 STATE 220125

5. SCHEDULE. THE BENGALLEES ARRANGED A FULL SCHEDULE FOR MUJIB IN NEW YORK. IN ADDITION TO LUNCHEES, DINNERS AND HIS SPEECH TO THE UNGA, HE APPEARED IN A SUNDAY TELEVISION PROGRAM, ADDRESSED THE ASIA SOCIETY AT A LUNCHEON, AND MET DAVID ROCKEFELLER (AMONG OTHERS) WHOM HE INVITED TO BANGLADESH AS A GUEST OF THE BDG. IN WASHINGTON, MUJIB MET PRIVATELY WITH ROBERT MCNAMARA AND SENATORS

KENNEDY AND MCGOVERN, TALKED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AID AND THE IBRD OVER LUNCHEON, AND WAS HOSTED AT COFFEE BY A JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES. WHILE THE BENGALLEES WERE

PLEASED WITH BLAIR HOUSE AND THE USAF AIRCRAFT, THEY TURNED DOWN OUR OFFER TO HAVE A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL SAXBE (THE SECRETARY WAS IN NEW YORK, AND THE SUGGESTION HAD BEEN MADE ON THE BASIS OF BENGALLEE INITIAL INTEREST IN AN EVENT HOSTED BY A CABINET MEMBER). THEIR RECEPTION, WHICH WAS POORLY ATTENDED, CONSTITUTED THE ONLY LARGE SOCIAL EVENT FOR MUJIB IN WASHINGTON. KISSINGER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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